



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Douglas M. Duncan  
County Executive

Thomas W. Carr, Jr.  
Fire Chief

# ATTENTION ALL CONTRACTORS:

With cold weather on the way, contractors need to take certain steps and precautions to prepare a home for a sprinkler inspection. While the outside temperature may be colder, the minimum temperature within the house must be no less than 40 degrees. This temperature must be maintained the entire time that the pipe is being installed (before and after) and/or there is water in the pipe. After a hydro test, the pipe may be drained to prevent freezing until after the house is adequately constructed to properly retain heat. If temporary heating is used, all requirements of **NFPA 241** (Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations), **NFPA 54** (National Fuel Gas Code), and **FSC 22** (Montgomery County Fire Safety Code) must be followed. Some specific criteria from these documents are listed below. However, you are strongly urged to review these documents for other code requirements.

- Temporary heating equipment shall be listed and used following all manufacturer operating instructions. These instructions shall be prominently positioned near the heating equipment. (NFPA 54)
- Heating equipment and its fuel shall be secured to prevent it from falling or tipping, additional fuel must be kept outside of the structure, at a minimum of ten feet. (NFPA 54)
- Heating equipment must be kept a minimum 36" from any combustible surface including the floor. A minimum, type "X" drywall meeting this dimension shall be placed on the floor. (NFPA 241)

Heating equipment shall be monitored for safe operation at least once an hour for the duration it is in use. When contractors are leaving the job site, the heat must be turned off. (NFPA 241)

Smoking is prohibited in any structure that flammable liquids are stored or in use. (NFPA 241)

Once combustible materials are placed on the jobsite, a road, twenty feet in width shall be constructed, ***maintained***, to allow appropriate fire department access. The winter freeze/thaw can affect this road, so repairs may be needed to assure proper accessibility. (FSC 22-32)

\* Sprinkler pipe, as well as domestic plumbing pipe, has specific temperature requirements that need to be maintained during installation to allow for proper curing of the glue. Communicate with your sprinkler contractor that the home is properly prepared before installation begins. \*\*\*\*\*

FM13 11/21/05

Office of Fire Code Enforcement

2255 Rockville Pike, 2nd Floor, Rockville, Maryland 20850-2589 240/777-2457 FAX 240/777-2465

*Serving with dedication, courage and compassion*